

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DOD-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
ACDA-07 EB-07 IO-13 /085 W  
-----094653 270831Z /10 L

R 270715Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6306  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0723

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, PINS, MPOL, BY, RW, CG

REF:BUJUMBURA 0722

1. DURING MY LONG CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT BAGAZA ON JUNE 23 (REFTEL), I ASKED HIM HOW RELATIONS WERE GOING WITH HIS NEIGHBORS BILATERALLY, AND WITH ZAIRE AND RWANDA IN THE TRIPARTITE ORGANIZATION. ON THE LATTER, HE SAID THAT ANY PROGRESS WAS NOW "FROZEN", OWING PRIMARILY TO ZAIRE'S FOCUS ON THE SHABA PROBLEM AND TO ITS GOVERNMENT'S DISORGANIZATION AND INEFFECTIVENESS, ESPECIALLY IN DISTANT KIVU REGION. HE WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE AND HOPED THEY WOULD BE POSSIBLE, BUT MOBUTU HAD TO STRAIGHTEN UP HIS OWN HOUSE.

2. I NOTED THAT, IN THIS PERIOD OF INSTABILITY IN ZAIRE, SOME OUTSIDE POWERS WERE TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE KABILA REBELS OF THE SO-CALLED PRP TO ATTACK ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES MORE ENTERGETICALLY IN EASTERN ZAIRE ALONG LAKE TANGANYIKA. ARMS FOR THE PRP FROM EAST EUROPEAN SURCES SEEMS TO BE TRANSITING TANZANIA TO KIGOMA FOR TRANSSHIPMENT ACROSS THE LAKE, AND THE CUBANS MIGHT  
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BE SENDING IN PEOPLE TO TRAIN THE PRP. LATELY THE ZAIRIANS HAD BEEFED UP THEIR NAVAL PATROLS ON THE LAKE (WHICH BAGAZA SAID HE KNEW), AND MIGHT HAVE HAD SOME CUSSESS AGAINST THE SUPPLY SHIPMENTS. HENCE, THERE WAS A DANGER THAT KABILA'S PEOPLE MIGHT TRY TO USE BURUNDI TERRITORY FOR THE MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE AND SUPPLIES TO EASTERN ZAIRE. BAGAZA COMMENTED THAT HIS OFFICIALS WERE DOING THEIR BEST BOTH TO KEEP UP WITH THIS SITUATION AND TO

PREVENT BURUNDI FROM BEING USED TO UNDERMINE ZAIRE'S GOVERNMENT.  
DISORDER AND FIGHTING WEST OF BURUNDI'S BORDER IN ZAIRE COULD  
ONLY BE TO BURUNDI'S DISADVANTAGE.

3. AS FOR RWANDA, THE PRESIDENT SAID THERE WAS A CERTAIN  
"MALAISE" TEMPORARILY EVIDENT IN RELATIONS WITH BURUNDI, BUT IT  
WOULD PASS. I OBSERVED THAT THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO  
COUNTRIES AND EFFORTS AT BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM SEEMED  
TO HAVE PETERED OUT. OTHERWISE, HOW COULD ONE EXPLAIN THE FIASCO  
OF THE FIXING OF COFFEE PRICES, WHEN BURUNDI'S FAILURE TO  
COORDINATE WITH RWANDA ON A COMMON PRICE HAD COST BURUNDI LOTS OF  
FOREIGN CURRENCY AND HAD PROMOTED COFFEE SMUGGLING AND THE BRIBERY  
OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS? EVEN WORSE, RWANDA WAS DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT  
THE NEW SOVIET ARMORED CARS ACQUIRED BY BURUNDI, ABOUT MORE SOVIET  
ARMS TO COME, AND ABOUT THE FACT THAT BURUNDI'S ARMY WAS 50  
PERCENT LARGER THAN RWANDA'S.

4. BAGAZA IMPLIED THAT THE COFFEE AFFAIR HAD BEEN BADLY HANDLED,  
BUT HE SAID THAT BURUNDI'S ARMY AT ABOUT 4,000 TROOPS (NOT COUNTING  
ABOUT 1,300 IN THE GENDARMERIE, BUT ON ARMY ROLLS) WAS NO LARGER  
THAN RWANDA'S. IT WAS RIDICULOUS EVEN TO IMAGINE THAT BURUNDI'S  
ARMY WOULD ATTACK ANY NEIGHBOR. TANZANIA AND ZAIRE WERE MUCH  
LARGER, AND, REGARDING RWANDA, WAS BURUNDI SUPPOSED TO NURTURE  
THE IDEA OF TAKING OVER BUTARE AND INCORPORATING RWANDANS INTO  
BURUNDI? THE ARMY HAD NO LOGISTIC CAPABILITY FOR SUCH AN  
ADVENTURE; IT DID NOT RPT NOT REALLY HAD EVEN BATTALION LEVEL  
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FIELD TRAINING. IT WAS PURELY AN INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE. I  
ASKED WHETHER THE ARMY DID NOT HAVE PLANS TO GROW TO 8,000  
MEN OR MORE. HE SAID THERE HAD ONCE BEEN SUCH A PLAN, BUT IT  
HAD BEEN ABANDONED AS SUCH A SIZE WOULD BE WHOLLY BEYOND BURUNDI'S  
CAPACITY TO SUPPORT BUDGETARILY.

5. I COMMENTED THAT THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT SAW THINGS DIFF-  
ERENTLY; AND THEIR CONTIGUITY TO AMIN JUSTIFIED A BIT OF IRRA-  
TIONALITY. MOREOVER, AS A HUTU REGIME THAT HAD OUSTED TUTSI  
RULERS, THEY WERE VERY SENSITIVE TO BURUNDI'S TUTSI DOMINATED  
GOVERNMENT. THIS WAS A PRESCRIPTION FOR SUSPICIONS, AND RWANDA  
WAS CASTING ABOUT FOR SOURCES OF ARMS TO MATCH BURUNDI'S SUPPOSED  
BUILDUP. THE LAST THING ANYONE NEEDED WAS A MINI ARMS RACE IN  
THIS PART OF CENTRAL AFRICA. ONLY THE TWO CHIEFS OF STATE COULD  
RESTORE PERSPECTIVE AND NORMALCY TO BILATERAL RELATIONS.  
HABYARIMANA WAS A SOLID CITIZEN, DEVOTED TO RWANDA'S ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT, AND HE WOULD SURELY MEET BAGAZA HALF WAY. I HOPED  
THAT DURING BAGAZA'S PLANNED STATE VISIT TO RWANDA IN AUGUST,  
BAGAZA WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO OVERCOME THIS NOT SO LITTLE  
"MALAISE".  
MARK

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PARM, PINS, MPOL, BY, RW, CG, (BAGAZA, JEAN-BAPTISTE)  
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**Type:** TE  
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